


# CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH

## City Council Interoffice Communication

**To:** Honorable Mayor and City Council Members  
**From:** Joe Shaw, Mayor Pro Tem   
**Date:** July 14, 2014  
**Subject:** CITY COUNCIL MEMBER ITEM FOR JULY 21, 2014, CITY COUNCIL MEETING – YOUTH SPORTS GRANTS

---

### STATEMENT OF ISSUE:

In 1995, at the recommendation of the Community Services Commission, Council approved the Youth Sports Grant Program (then referred to as the Youth Sports Group Assistance Program) as part of the annual budget. Since its inception the program has funded over \$1,989,000 from the Park Acquisition and Development Fund to assist local youth sports groups in funding field improvements and new fields. The grant review and approval process has been under the purview of the Community Services Commission. In Fiscal Year 2011/ 2012 the Youth Sports Grants were eliminated due to budgetary reasons.

This has created funding gaps for permanent amenities such as, field lighting, improved irrigation systems, field construction and other needed amenities for youth sports groups utilizing city parkland.

Youth sports programs are important to teach important life lessons and to shape the character of tomorrow's leaders. These programs provide opportunities for youth health and wellness, and are vital to having a well-rounded and healthy community. I propose bringing back the Youth Sports Grants for the fiscal year 2015/2016. When the grant program was originally established, the City was responsible for allocating field space at public school sites as well as City parks. The City no longer allocates school fields but, assistance to youth sports organizations utilizing City parks and facilities is still a need.

### RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Direct staff to work through the Community Services Commission to establish new criteria for funding the grants in order to efficiently address the needs of our youth sports organizations, as well as an appropriate funding amount based upon the annual Park Fund balance. These criteria will be utilized for funding projects starting with the 2015/2016 fiscal year.

**Xc:** Fred Wilson, City Manager  
Ken Domer, Assistant City Manager  
Joan Flynn, City Clerk  
Janeen Laudenback, Director of Community Services